(b) if so, whether this option is applicable only for four questions out of five in the departmental examination for the section officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to allow option for all the questions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The option to answer three out of five question papers in the Departmental examinations, either in Hindi or in English, is already available. Now it has been decided to allow all candidates, except those of the Ministry of External Affairs, the option to answer one more question paper, namely noting, drafting and precis writing, either in English or in Hindi.

[English]

Indo US Collaboration

4975. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have entered into contract with the General Motors of US for the transfer of technology to manufacture modern diesel electric locomotives;

(b) if so, the main points of the agreement reached; and

(c) the time by which the implementation of the said work is likely to take place indicating the total US aid to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The contract with General Motors, USA is under implementation and no US aid has been so far provided for this.

STATEMENT

The main points reached on the agreement are:

(i) The contract will be valid for a period of 10 years.

(ii) The contract would enable Indian Railways to fully assimilate the technology pertaining to design, manufacture, maintenance and operation of the high HP State-of-Art Diesel Locomotives so as to enable Indian Railways to manufacture them in Diesel Locomotive Works/Varanasi.

(iii) General Motors would keep Indian Railways constantly informed of all improvements in technology of their product made in the interim period during the currency of the contract.

(iv) General Motors would jointly work with Indian Railways to develop sources in India for manufacture of locomotive components other than those manufactured in Railways workshops so as to establish a 95% level of indigenisation by the end of the contract period. They also undertake the responsibility for establishing a manufacturing facility in India so as to make the electrical equipments available indigenously by March '98.

(v) Indian Railways would pay General Motors a lumpsum amount of US$ 17.5m in four phases spread over 10 years.

Hazardous Chemical Industries

4976. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed or proposed to allow the production of certain hazardous chemicals in India being burnt out in other countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the ill-effects of such chemicals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the circumstances under which the industries have been allowed to produce such chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) In order to keep a check on the production of hazardous chemicals, 21 chemicals/group of chemicals have been included in the list of industries in respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory. The Government of India have subscribed to the London Guidelines which require the taking of informed decision about banning/ restricting imports of chemicals determined to be toxic/ hazardous. Besides, the Government follows the guidelines of global Base Convention on the control of trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal.

[Translation]

Displacement of Villages

4977. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: